

The Puffin (*Fratercula arctica arctica*) on Long Island, N. Y.— On April 30, 1915, a specimen of this species was found on the beach near Montauk Point and was sent to me for identification. The body of the bird was very much decayed and it may have perished several weeks before it was found. This appears to be the third record for Long Island.— J. A. WEBER, *Box 327, Palisades Park, N. J.*

A Near View of an Iceland Gull.— As notes on the Iceland Gull (*Larus leucopterus*) in life are rather scarce, the following observations on its appearance and actions may be worth recording. I found a bird of this species January 2, 1915, at the fish pier, South Boston. It was alternately swimming about and resting in the slip on the west side of the pier, and I watched it for some time with my bird-glass (of three diameters), part of the time within ten or fifteen yards, I should think. It was in the rare pure-white plumage (at least nothing but pure white could be seen on the most careful study under these favorable conditions) and the bill appeared to be entirely black, or blackish. It was clearly smaller than the Herring Gulls with which it was associated, and the bill, as always with this species, was noticeably shorter in proportion, giving a somewhat dove-like appearance to the head. It also carried its head higher and the tail, or rather the rear part of the body, cocked at more of an angle. The wings extended farther beyond the tail than was the case with the Herring Gulls. It was livelier and more "aristocratic" and graceful in bearing than these, and made pretty little dabs with its bill at morsels of food in the water. It appeared to be on terms of equality with the Herring Gulls and was always near them or among them. It had two or three little tiffs with them over food, but these were no more frequent than the quarrels among the Herring Gulls themselves. This bird was afterwards seen at the same place by Dr. Charles W. Townsend, and this or a similar pure-white Iceland Gull was observed at close range off Rockport, Mass., April 19, 1915, by Mr. Charles R. Lamb, who permits me to report the occurrence.— FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Mass.*

The Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) in Eastern Minnesota.— While out on a bird-hunting trip with my class in ornithology on May 12, 1915, we saw an Arkansas Kingbird on the boulevard of Minnehaha Creek not far from Lake Harriet. There could be no doubt as to the identification, since he was in plain sight and the lemon-colored underparts were described by all the members of the class. This is the second time within a year that I have seen an Arkansas Kingbird in the neighborhood of the Twin Cities. Since the 'A. O. U. Check-List' names western Minnesota as the eastern boundary of the range of this species, while Hatch in his 'Birds of Minnesota' does not mention the bird at all, I thought the record might be of interest.— PROF. PAUL E. KRETZMANN, PH.D., *Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn.*

Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in New Hampshire.— Four Starlings were seen at Hanover, N. H., on April 17, 1915. As this is the first time these birds have been seen here, I thought the record might prove of interest.— E. GORDON BELL, *Hanover, N. H.*

Bachman's Sparrow near Chicago, Illinois.— The scene of this discovery is not Chicago proper, but the suburb of River Forest. Near my home in this fine suburb is an eighty acre tract of land, which I call "Waller's Park," for although a piece of real estate held for speculation, it is in reality a beautiful park, as it has been surrounded by the owner with an eight foot fence and for over twenty-five years planted up with many kinds of trees and bushes, so that, besides having in the course of these years become a park, it is also an ideal bird preserve or sanctuary, unintentional as this phase of the project may have been on the part of the owner. On May 9 I went into this idyllic spot, which, however, had up to this time not been resorted to by flights of migrants as much as would be expected, owing to the unseasonably cool or cold weather. The temperature for May recorded by the Chicago weather station was two degrees lower than that for April, if I am not mistaken, the coldest May since the establishment of the office. After seeing several Palm Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Field Sparrows, Baltimore Orioles and the here inevitable Cowbirds, my attention was suddenly arrested by an unusual song. On going to that part of the grove from which it came, I noticed ten to fifteen reddish sparrows, which were busily feeding on the ground among the grass and then, as though they could not keep their exhilaration for themselves or that it could not be given vent to on the ground, some would mount to the lowest branches of the adjacent trees and pour out a ringing song. The song resembled that of the Chewink at its best and also that of the Field Sparrow, being, however, louder than the latter and sweeter than the former. Approaching to within fifteen feet of several of the singers, I saw that they were Bachman's Sparrows (*Peucaea aestivalis bachmani*), a species with which I had become familiar during a stay in southern Illinois. It was hard to believe, but looking them over again and again, with and without the glass, one could, also by elimination, arrive at no other conclusion, which was corroborated by the skins in my collection when I came home. That flock stayed there, in the same spot, for several days, for I saw them again on May 12. Knowing that this species is one of those which are gradually extending their breeding range northward, I still thought that these birds would not remain to breed, for the gap between here and the nearest locality to the south from which they are reported as breeders, would be too great. I thought they had in their migratory ardor been carried along by other sparrows until they found themselves farther north than they wished to go, and would retrace their flight fifty or more miles southward. However, on May 23, I noticed one again which behaved very much as though it were at home. On June 29 and 30, I heard two